(b)whether National Thermal Power Corporation had submitted any proposal to the government for construction and supply of equimpments for the second phase of above projects;

(c) if so, whether government had approved its proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) received two bids under International Competitive Bidding (ICB) for Main Plant Package for Stage-II of Kavas and Gandhar power projects in Gujarat. Both the bidders did not meet qualifying requirements relating to Joint Deed of Undertaking and took major deviations on various specifications, operational functional guarantees, completion schedule and other important conditions of the bid rendering the bids non-responsive.

Keeping in view national importance of these projects and for ensuring their timely completion during the Ninth Plan period, NTPC was advised by the Ministry in the public interest to finalise the bids by negotiating with the bidders on the basis of a legal opinion taken from the Additional Solicitor General. However, NTPC, taking into account certain major deviations on various specifications and requirements, treated both the bids as non-responsive and decided to rebid. Government has left the matter to the NTPC Board being a Navratna Company for a decision. A review of the bidding conditions has been undertaken by NTPC and rebidding is being done by providing adequate time to the bidders for better competition and response.

Disinvestment in Power Sector

†2868. SHRI GOPAL SINGH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a)whether it is a fact that government are making a plan to disinvest power sector;

(b)if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) what would be the share of public sector and private sector undertakings separately under the said plan;

(e) by when the above plan is likely to be implemented; and

(f) to what extent the cost of power generation is likely to be increased as a result of this disinvestment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) In order to enable the Government to implement an accelerated power development programme, the Government is considering various options for mobilising resources to supplement the funds likely to be provided in the plan and to leverage the strengths of different central public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Power. M/s ICICI and SBI companies were appointed as consultants to suggest various options of raising resources for the central PSUs to invest in accelerated power development programme. A final decision on the modality of leveraging the financial strength of different CPSUs covering various aspects like disinvestment, privatisation will be taken in consultation with Planning commission and concerned Ministries.

(c) to (e) In view of above, do not arise at this stage.

World Bank Mission for Restructuring Sebs.

2869. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a)whether the world Bank has deputed any mission to evaluate the ongoing reforms and restructuring of the various State Electricity Boards (SEBs);

(b)whether the grants of loans and other assistance to SEBs by the World Bank is inter-linked with this evaluation;

(c) if so, the terms of reference of the World Bank mission; and

(d) the present status of every State Electricity Board, particularly of Punjab State Electricity Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The World Bank deputes missions at regular intervals, to the states taking loans from them to evaluate progress. The World Bank is presently assisting Orissa, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh in undertaing power sector reforms through loans which involve